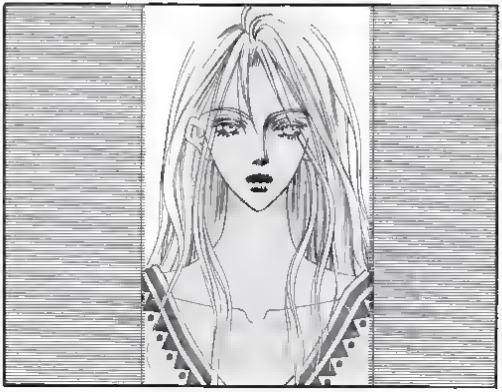
Seyoung Kim
Boy Princess
5

VOL. 5
CH. 1

Boy Princess

I THINK I HAD SOME KIND OF A DREAM...
SIR SHAHII SIR SHAHII
ARE YOU IN THERE?
NOKK
NOKK

KLIK
!
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?



HE'S WEARING SUCH A STRANGE EXPRESSION... IT MAKES ME NERVOUS.
I... DIDN'T SEE YOU FOR SEVERAL DAYS, AND... YOU DIDN'T VISIT THE HERB GARDEN EITHER...
...IT...
?
DOESN'T CONCERN YOU.
PLEASE DON'T BOTHER ME IN THE FUTURE. YOU WOULD ONLY BECOME A NUISANCE.

!
I'M SORRY...
BUT I DON'T FEEL ANY EMOTIONS.
SO I GUESS I DID THINK OF YOU AS SOMEONE I COULD USE.

WHEN MY HOPES WERE DASHED
MY FEELINGS FOR YOU ALSO DISAPPEARED
I WISHED FOR MY DREAM TO COME TRUE WITH SUCH A CRIPPLED HEART...
MAYBE THAT'S WHY IT DIDN'T COME TRUE...!

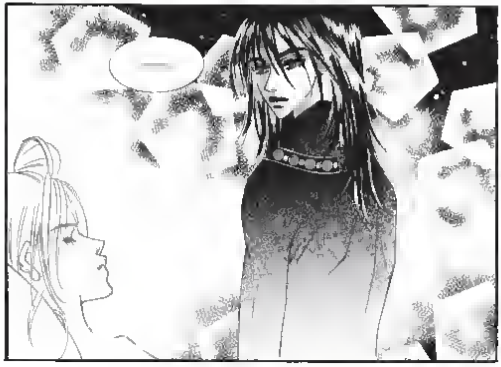
MY TRIBE IS... A DREADFUL CURSE.

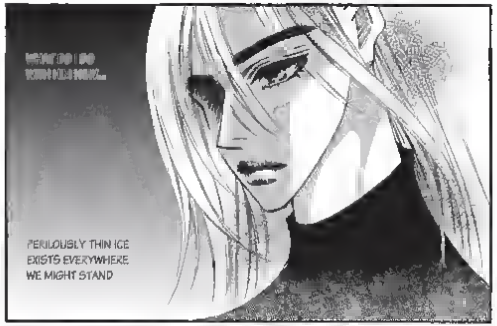
CREAK
?

WHERE DID HE GO THIS TIME?
DAMN! I TOLD HIM PLENTY OF TIMES.
MMMHH...
?

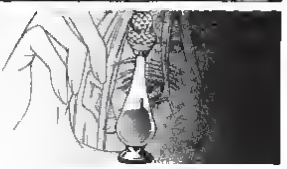
WHUMP
THIS KID REALLY DOESN'T CHANGE A BIT.

... !
ZERRRK

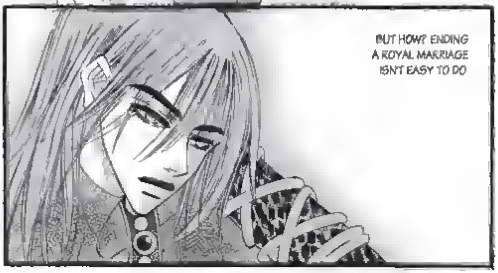



PERILOUSLY THIN ICE
EXISTS EVERYWHERE
WE MIGHT STAND

I WAGER MY BROTHER
WILL RECOGNIZE HIM
IF THEY MEET NOW.

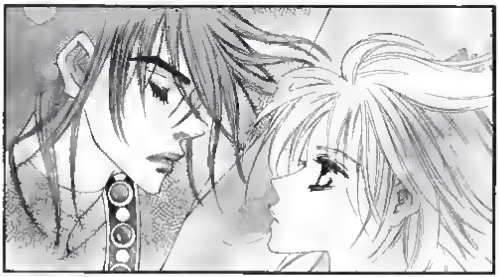

AND THE APOTHECARY
REMAINS DANGEROUS AS WELL.
I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO MEET
THE TRIBE LEADER IN PERSON.

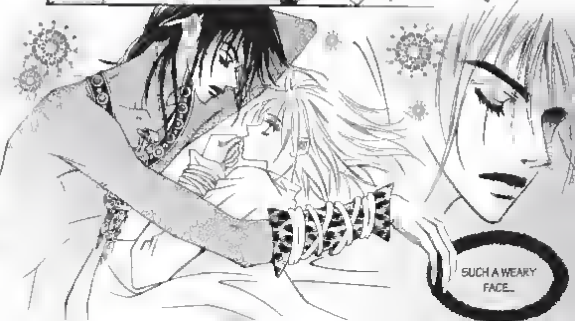
I MUST END THIS AS
SOON AS POSSIBLE...

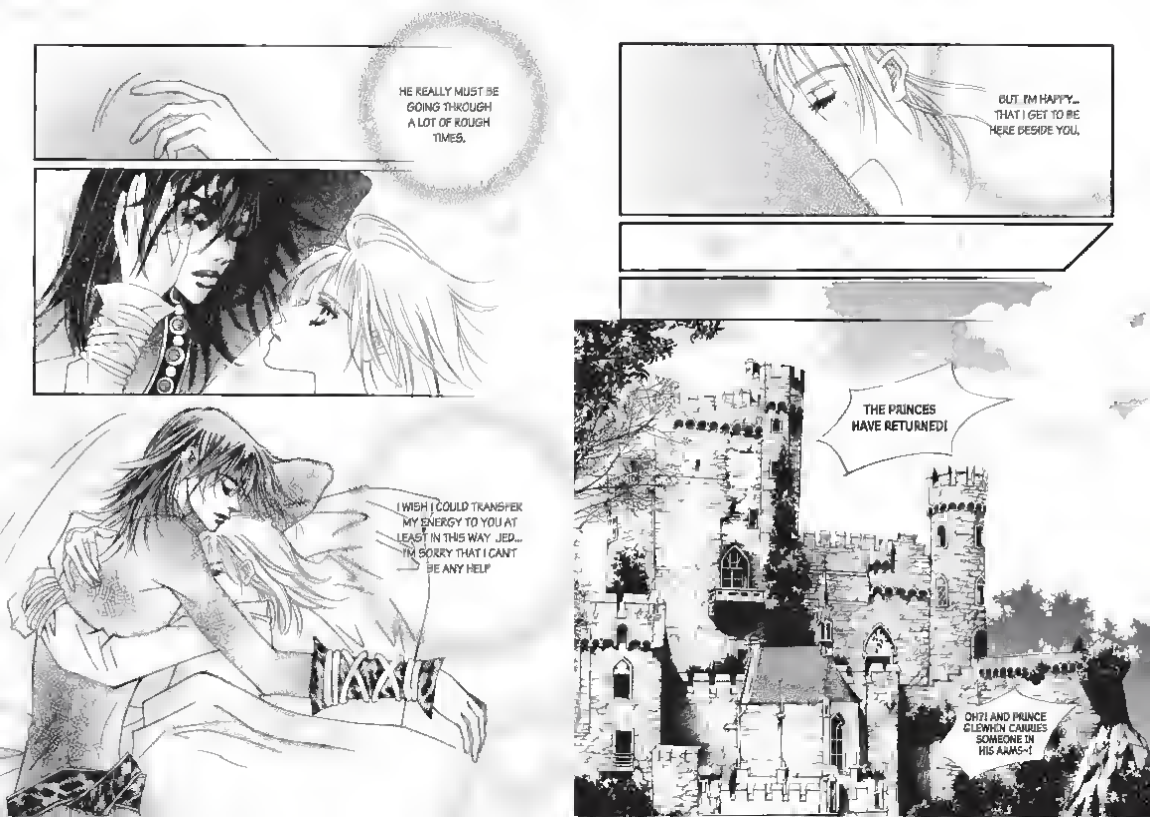

BUT HOW? ENDING
A ROYAL MARRIAGE
ISN'T EASY TO DO

UNLESS THERE'S A
LEGITIMATE REASON...

WHY... I CAN'T BREATHE...

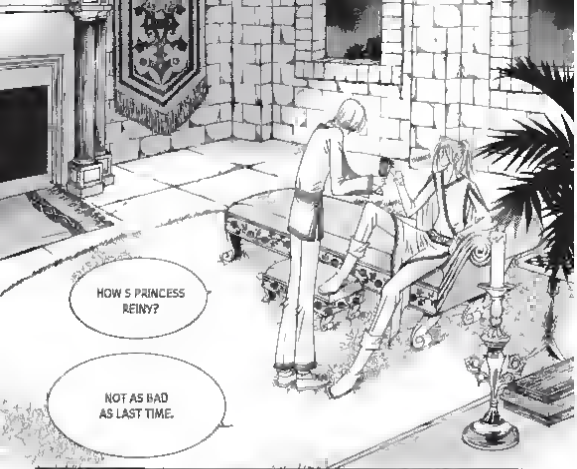



SUCH A WEARY FACE...


HE REALLY MUST BE GOING THROUGH A LOT OF ROUGH TIMES.
I WISH I COULD TRANSFER MY ENERGY TO YOU AT LEAST IN THIS WAY. JED... I'M SORRY THAT I CAN'T BE ANY HELP
BUT, I'M HAPPY... THAT I GET TO BE HERE BESIDE YOU.
THE PRINCES HAVE RETURNED!
OH?! AND PRINCE GLENKEN CARRIES SOMEONE IN HIS ARMS~!

HURRY! PREPARE HOT WATER AND SUMMON AN APOTHECARY!
YES, SIRE-.
BUT WHEN...
EL... NICOLE, BROTHER. DID YOU HAVE A SAFE JOURNEY?

YES, JUNE-. WE'LL TALK LATER.
NICOLE, YOU SHOULD GET SOME REST NOW.
KOFF
YES, BROTHER.
NICOLE.
YOU HAD A HARD TIME, DIDN'T YOU?
WELCOME HOME.
...I'M SORRY, JUNE.


HOW S PRINCESS REINY?
NOT AS BAD AS LAST TIME.

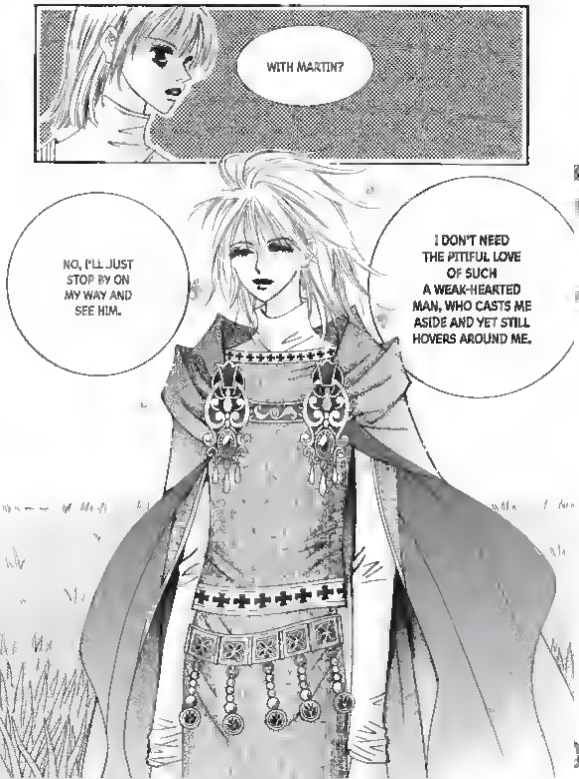
THINGS WILL ONLY GET WORSE IN THE DAYS AHEAD I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO ABOUT HER DIFFICULT TEMPERAMENT.

WHAT DO WE DO ABOUT ELENA?
DOES SHE KNOW ABOUT MARTIN'S NEW SITUATION?

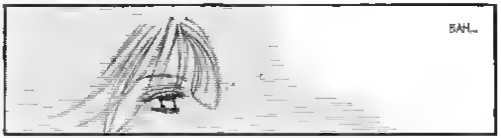
HER NANNY TOLD HER BEFORE WE LEFT THE PALACE,
SHE WASN'T AS SURPRISED AS I HAD EXPECTED.

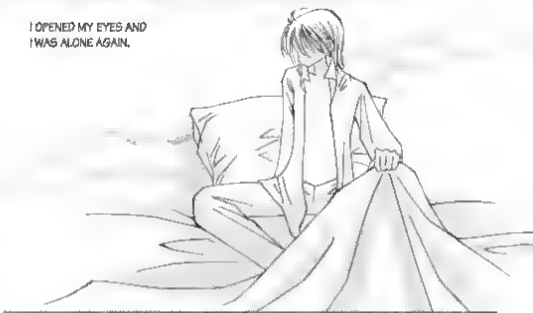
IN ANY CASE, SHE MUST HIDE SOMEWHERE OUT OF PUBLIC SIGHT IN ORDER TO CARRY HER BABY TO TERM.
WHEN I TOLD HER THAT, SHE REPLIED...

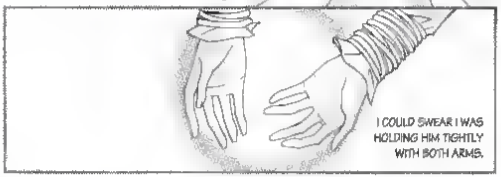
THIS TIME I'LL GO FIND MARTIN MYSELF.
THEN I'LL LEAVE UNDER THE PRETENSE THAT I'M STUDYING ABROAD IN A FARAWAY COUNTRY

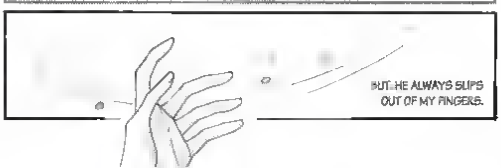

WITH MARTIN?
NO, I'LL JUST STOP BY ON MY WAY AND SEE HIM.
I DON'T NEED THE PITIFUL LOVE OF SUCH A WEAK-HEARTED MAN, WHO CASTS ME ASIDE AND YET STILL HOVERS AROUND ME.

DROOOOP
ARGH- WHAT IF I REALLY GET SICK DOING THIS?
I KNOW THIS IS A SCHEME, BUT I HAVE TO ACT SICK EVERYDAY. I CAN'T EVEN GO OUTSIDE.
AND I HAVEN'T EVEN SEEN A GLIMPSE OF MY SO-CALLED DEAR HUSBAND SINCE-.
DAMN IT. WHAT'S WITH THIS INCREDIBLE BOREDOM-?!


SAH...


I OPENED MY EYES AND I WAS ALONE AGAIN.


I COULD SWEAR I WAS HOLDING HIM TIGHTLY WITH BOTH ARMS.


BUT..HE ALWAYS SLIPS OUT OF MY FINGERS.

IT JUST CONFIRMS TO ME THAT THERE'S NO REAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN US.
SHAFF
SHAFF
OH WELL. MAYBE IT'S A GOOD THING THAT I'M GRADUALLY LEARNING NOT TO EXPECT ANYTHING
TAPP
JED?!
WHEN DID HE GET HURT?

GET READY. WE LEAVE TOGETHER IMMEDIATELY FOR THE HEKOT TRIBE'S FOREST.
WE'RE GOING OUTSIDE THE PALACE?
TOGETHER?

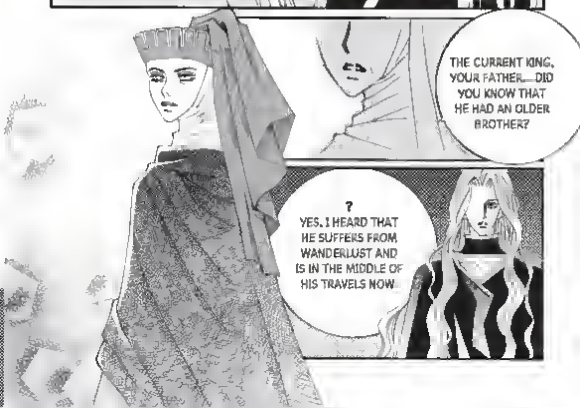
PISH, WE ALWAYS DO EVERYTHING YOUR WAY. FINE.
I'LL GO GET READY.
TAP
OH WELL. MAYBE IT'S A GOOD THING THAT I'M GRADUALLY LEARNING NOT TO EXPECT ANYTHING.
SHREWD BOY. HE EXTRACTED HIS WIFE FROM THE PALACE INTO HIS PERSONAL CUSTODY CLAIMING THAT IT'S HIS DUTY TO ESCORT HER HIMSELF TO THE TRIBE LEADER FOR TREATMENT.
OR PERHAPS, HE'S BEING CAUTIOUS WITH HER BECAUSE SHE REALLY IS PREGNANT FOR ALL TO SEE?
WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO SECRETLY SEND SHAHI TO EXAMINE THE CIRCUMSTANCES.
ANY WORDS, DEREK?
TA DA
DA DA
OH WELL. MAYBE IT'S A GOOD THING THAT I'M

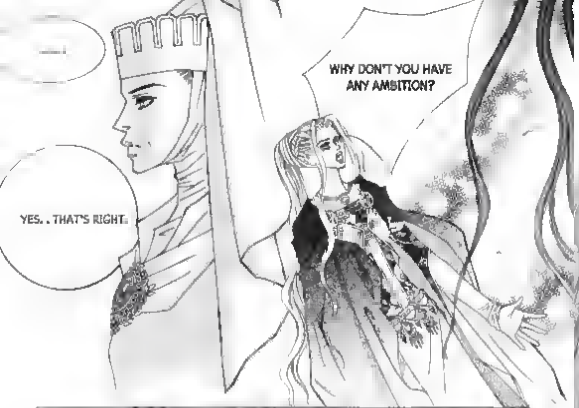
AND IN THE MEANTIME, YOU SHOULD LOOK AFTER THE CROWN PRINCESS.

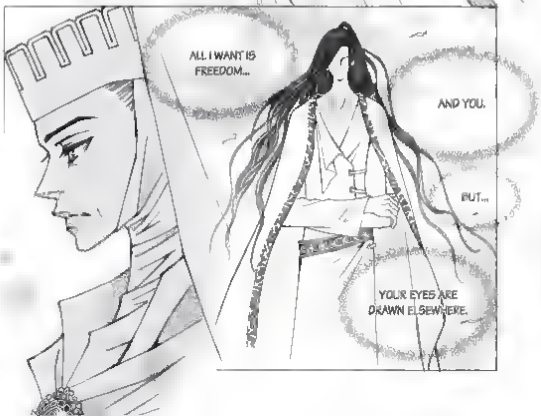
...YES, I SHALL.

BY THE WAY, WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN DOING RECENTLY? YOU SEEM OVERLY PREOCCUPIED

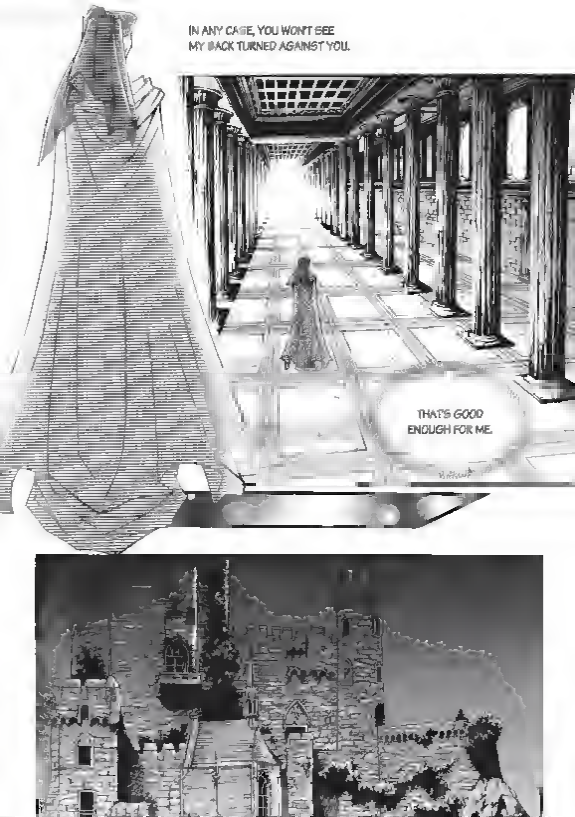
I'M ANALYZING THE INFORMATION GATHERED BY SPIES I PERSONALLY PLANTED AMONG THE ERIN KINGDOM ALLIES.
WE CAUTIOUSLY NEED TO BEGIN THE LION HUNT.


THE CURRENT KING, YOUR FATHER... DID YOU KNOW THAT HE HAD AN OLDER BROTHER?
?
YES. I HEARD THAT HE SUFFERS FROM WANDERLUST AND IS IN THE MIDDLE OF HIS TRAVELS NOW.





YES. I CHOSE THIS LIFE.


IN ANY CASE, YOU WON'T SEE
MY BACK TURNED AGAINST YOU.
THAT'S GOOD
ENOUGH FOR ME.

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Boy Princess

PRINCESS REINY, HAVE YOU NOT GONE TO BED YET?
WHAT IS WITH HER CHILDISH POSE?
THIS KINGDOM IS AMAZINGLY QUIET, THE LAST COUPLE OF DAYS FELT LIKE YEARS
WHOSE IDEA WAS IT FOR YOU TO COME HERE, PRINCESS~?
I SHOULD GET GOING NOW. THE EVENING BREEZE FEELS RATHER COLD, SO I SUGGEST YOU GO INSIDE AS WELL, PRINCESS.
HMM~ WHAT INSPIRING HOSPITALITY! YOUR ROYAL GUEST JUST TOLD YOU SHE'S BORED~
—0

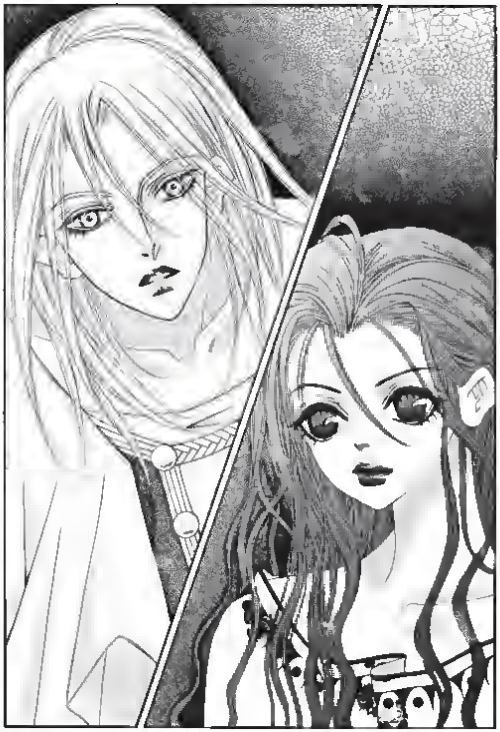
DID PRINCESS ELENA LEAVE SAFELY? YOU WERE ON YOUR WAY BACK FROM ESCORTING HER OUT, RIGHT?
...YES.
DID YOU JUST...
BLAME YOURSELF AND YOUR SMALL KINGDOM FOR BEING UNABLE TO PROTECT EVEN YOUR PREGNANT SISTER?
DON'T BE SHOCKED. I PROBABLY WOULD HAVE DONE THE SAME THING.
I'M SURE HE'S TOTALLY VIOLENT

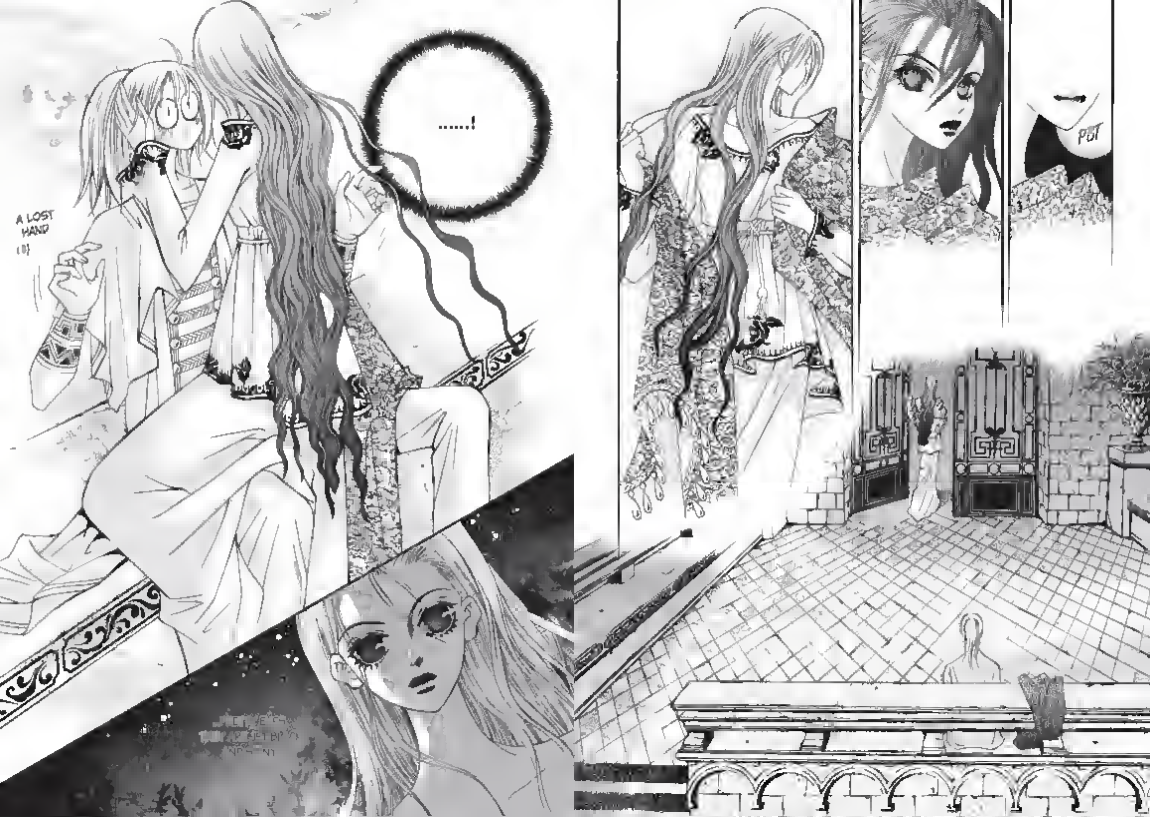
DON'T YOU THINK THE FACT THAT YOUR KINGDOM MANAGES TO HOLD ITS OWN AGAINST BEING CONQUERED BY A GREATER EMPIRE IS AMAZING IN AND OF ITSELF?
IN THE END, THE WELFARE OF THIS KINGDOM IS FAR MORE IMPORTANT THAN PRINCESS ELENA'S FEELINGS. SHE WAS WRONG TO ABANDON HER DUTY AND RUN AWAY!
I WOULD NEVER HAVE DONE ANYTHING LIKE THAT.
THIS LITTLE PRINCESS HAS A STRONG AND STUBBORN PERSONALITY BUT...
STRANGELY, I DON'T DISLIKE HER.
MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE SHE'S JUST A KID.
YOU LIMIT YOUR INDULGENCE IN LOVE BY YOUR ROYAL DUTIES AND THE WELFARE OF YOUR KINGDOM, BUT EVEN THOSE PRINCIPLES SEEM TO HOLD NO MEANING FOR ELENA.

THE LESS EXPERIENCE IN EMOTIONS A PERSON POSSESSES, THE MORE CONFIDENCE HE HAS IN HIS ABILITY TO CONTROL THEM.
YOU MAY REALIZE THAT WHEN YOU GROW UP A LITTLE MORE, PRINCESS.
WHEN YOU FINALLY MEET THAT ONE AND ONLY PERSON WHOSE VALUE CAN'T BE COMPARED TO ANYTHING ELSE AND WHO MAKES YOU BLIND TO EVERYTHING ELSE.
SO... PLEASE, DON'T DISAPPOINT ME... MY DEAR PRINCE.
SHHHF...

?
PRINCESS REINY?

WHAT DO YOU THINK? DID IT FEEL LIKE A KISS FROM A LITTLE GIRL?

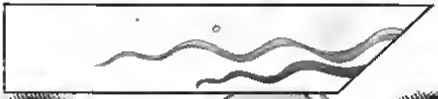



A LOST HAND
(1)
.....!
POT

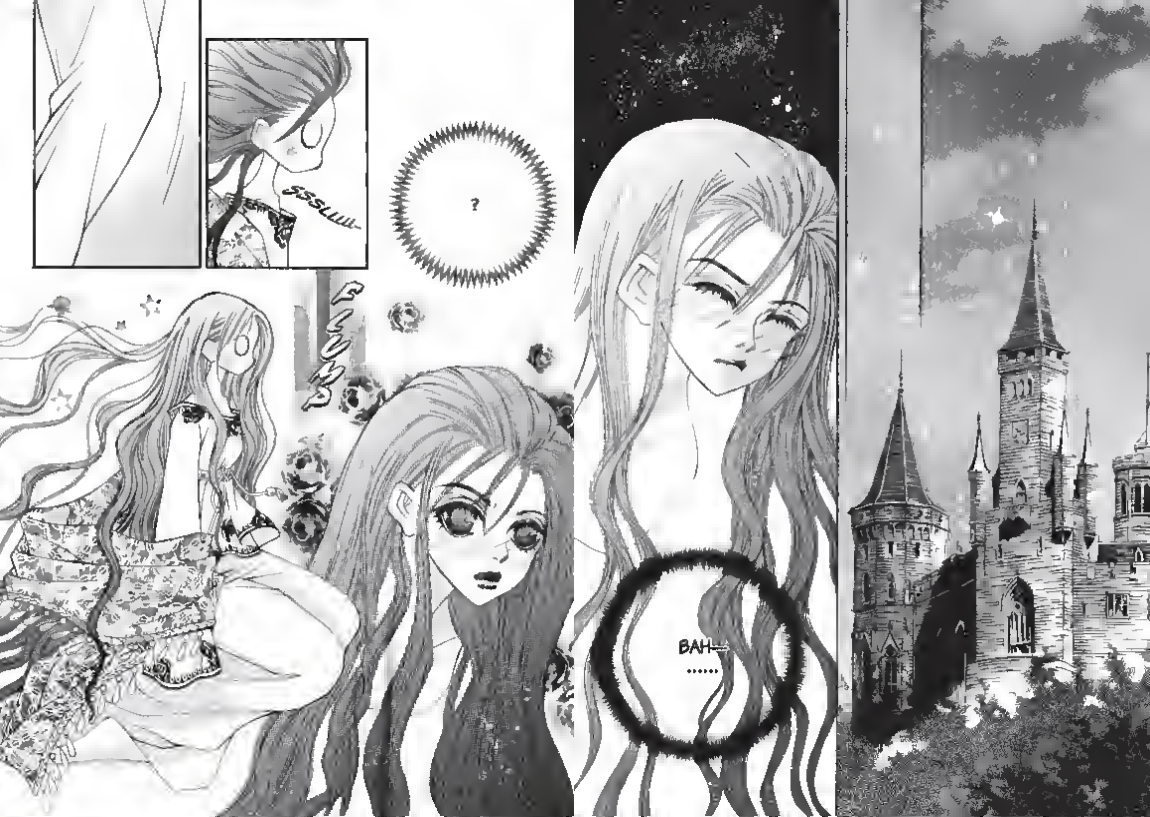
HUH?
DUH
JUST...
WHAT DOES SHE MEAN SHE'S NOT A LITTLE GIRL?
HOW CAN SHE BE SO SERIOUS?
WHEN SHE ACTS EXACTLY LIKE ONE!
HOW DARE SHE PROVOKE A WOLF WITHOUT THINKING OF THE RISKS!

WAS IT DELIBERATE?

ANYWAY... IT WAS MY FIRST TIME BEING AMBUSHED LIKE THAT
WHAT A SCARY KITTEN. I'M PRETTY IMPRESSED, REALLY



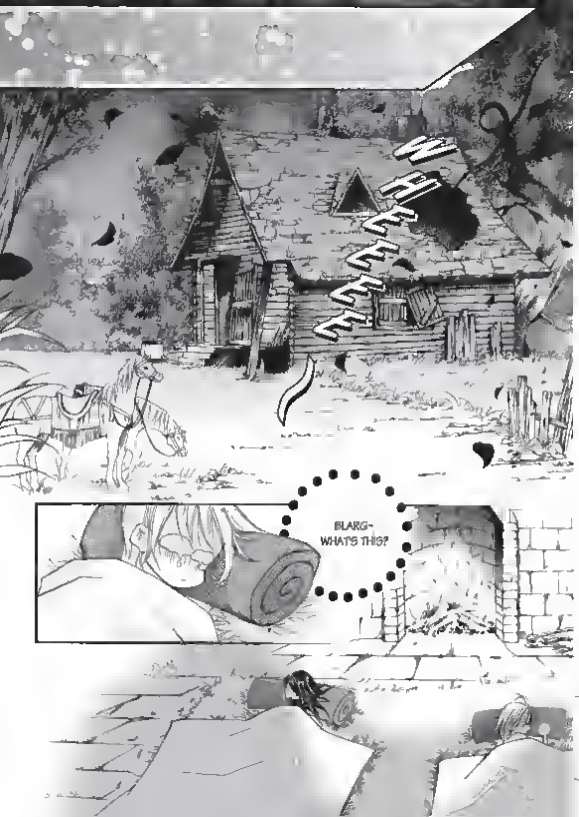
WHAT?! IT WAS NOTHING!
HMPH! THAT SHOULD TEACH HIM A LESSON!
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
NOW I DARE YOU TO TREAT ME LIKE A LITTLE GIRL AGAIN~

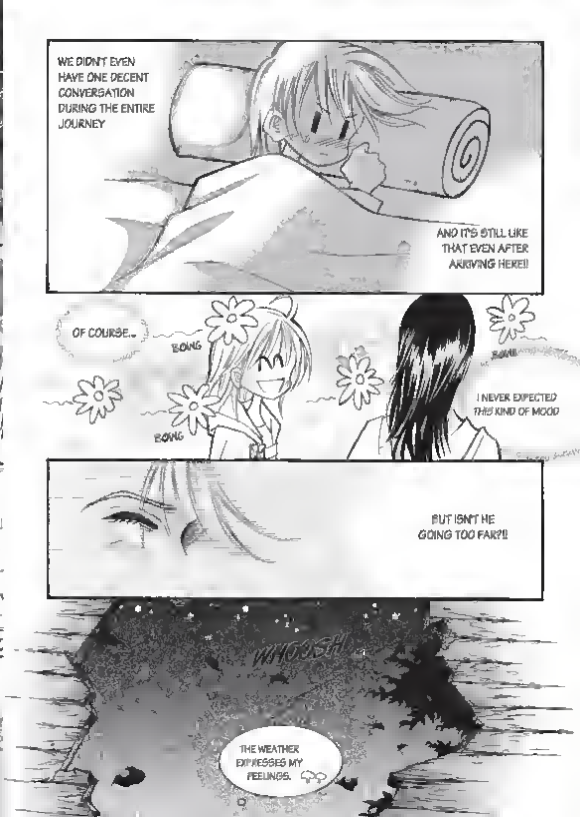

SSSLLLLL
?
FLUFF
BAH—
.....

I'LL SEND SOME GUARDS WITH YOU ON YOUR TRIP.

THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY. I'M USED TO THE FOREST. I CAN TRAVEL ALONE.

IN THE MEANTIME, I'LL GIVE MY EMBRACE TO THE CROWN PRINCESS.
I'LL GET GOING THEN.
KLAP

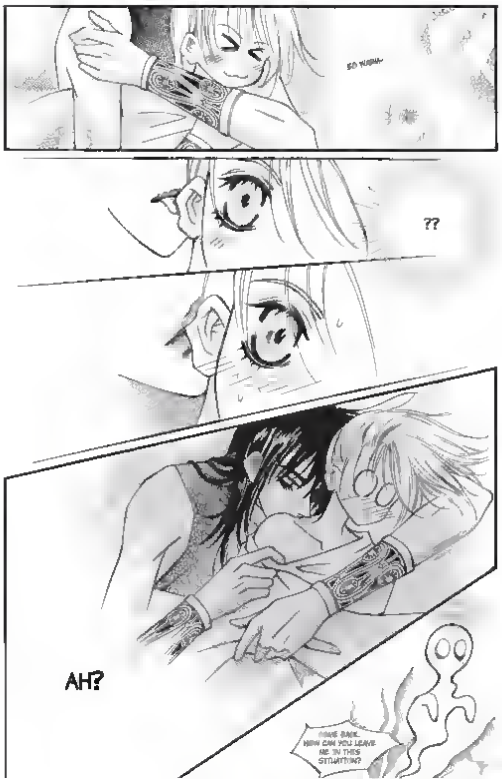

CRASH
BLARG- WHAT'S THIS?

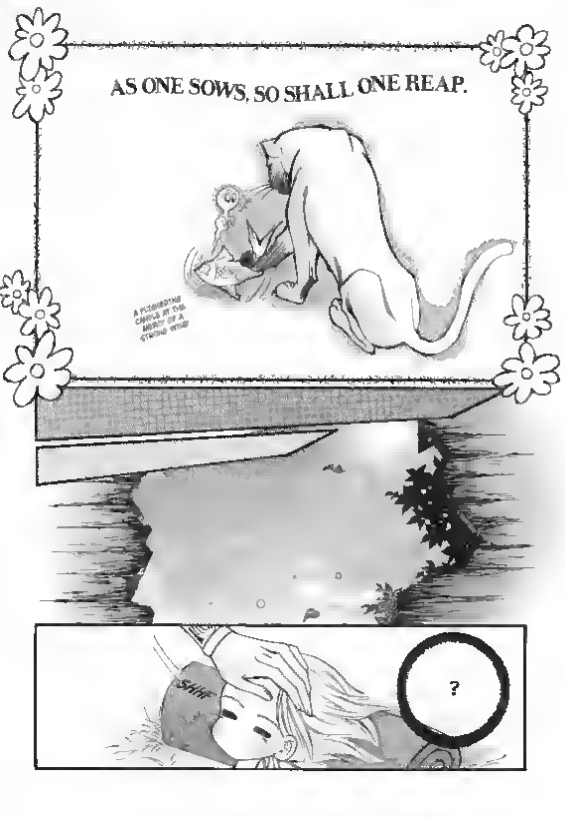

WE DIDN'T EVEN HAVE ONE DECENT CONVERSATION DURING THE ENTIRE JOURNEY
AND IT'S STILL LIKE THAT EVEN AFTER ARRIVING HERE!!
OF COURSE...
BOING
BOING
BOING
I NEVER EXPECTED THIS KIND OF MOOD
BUT ISN'T HE GOING TOO FAR?!
WHOOSH
THE WEATHER EXPRESSES MY FEELINGS.

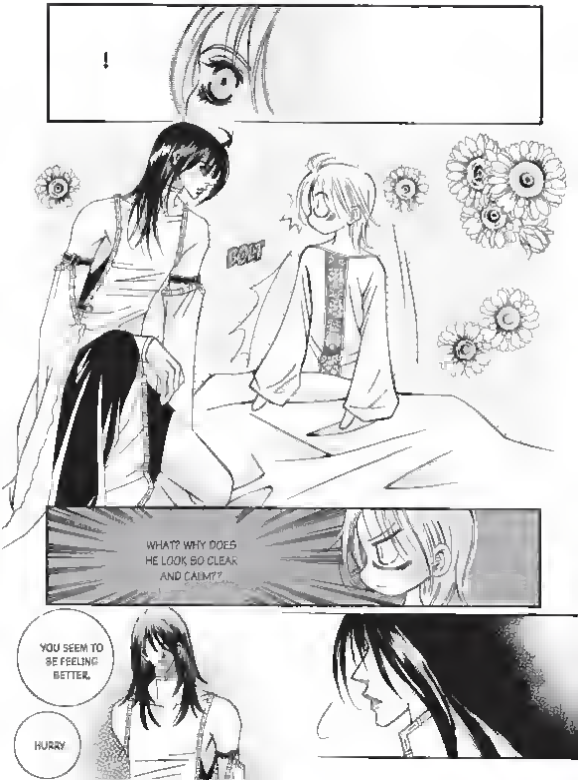
RUB RUB
KOFF
KOFF
KOFF
..... O
RUSTLE
!
KOFF
KOFF

KOFF-
?
WHY HE CATCH ARE
INVINCIBLE?
WHY YOU HE
STAND

SHHF
Flop
!
I CAUGHT A BIG ONE!

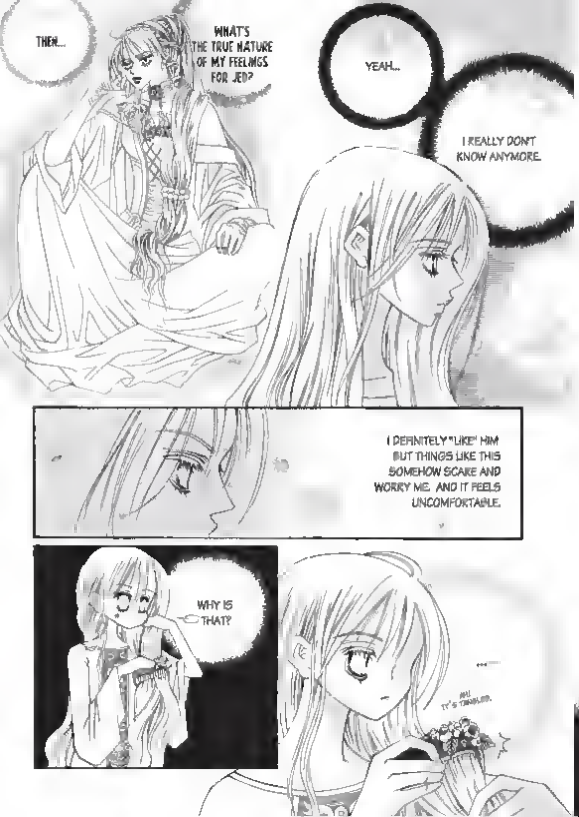

SO WARM
??
AH?
COME BACK. HOW CAN YOU LEAVE ME IN THIS SITUATION?


AS ONE SOWS, SO SHALL ONE REAP.
A FLICKERING CANDLE IS THE HEART OF A STRONG WISH
SHIN
?


!
BOLT
WHAT? WHY DOES HE LOOK SO CLEAR AND CALM??
YOU SEEM TO BE FEELING BETTER.
HURRY

WHY THAT INCREDIBLY SHAMELESS EXCUSE OF A HUMAN BEING!
.....
ARE YOU SAYING YOU FORGOT WHAT YOU DID TO ME LAST NIGHT?
DO YOU THINK I WON'T BE ABLE TO REMEMBER THIS TIME, TOO?
?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? I TOLD YOU TO HURRY.
EEP!
OKAY, OKAY~

I SEE. SO THAT'S HOW I GOT THESE MARKS.
I NEVER THOUGHT THERE WOULD BE SUCH A WIDE GAP BETWEEN WHAT I HEAR AND THE ACTUAL "ATTACK."
SHOCK ISN'T ENOUGH TO DESCRIBE HOW I FEEL. IT'S CLOSER TO *PANIC*.


THEN...
WHAT'S THE TRUE NATURE OF MY FEELINGS FOR JED?
YEAH...
I REALLY DON'T KNOW ANYMORE.
I DEFINITELY "LIKE" HIM BUT THINGS LIKE THIS SOMEHOW SCARE AND WORRY ME. AND IT FEELS UNCOMFORTABLE.
WHY IS THAT?
...
AH! IT'S TROUBLE.

—!
BAP
JED
BY ANY CHANCE...
AM I A WOMAN TO YOU?

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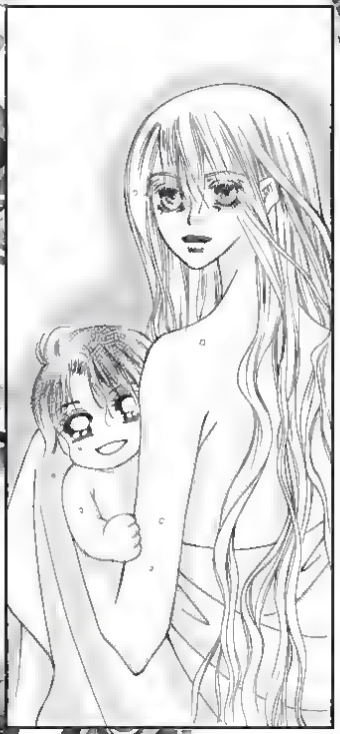
CH. 3

Boy Princess



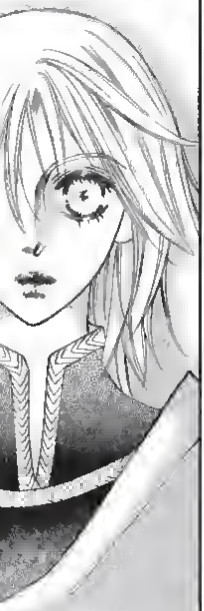
WELCOME.
YOU SAID YOU'RE HERE TO PURCHASE A HORSE?

YES. WE WOULD ALSO LIKE A ROOM TO STAY OVERNIGHT, IF POSSIBLE.

CERTAINLY~ HERE'S THE ROOM.

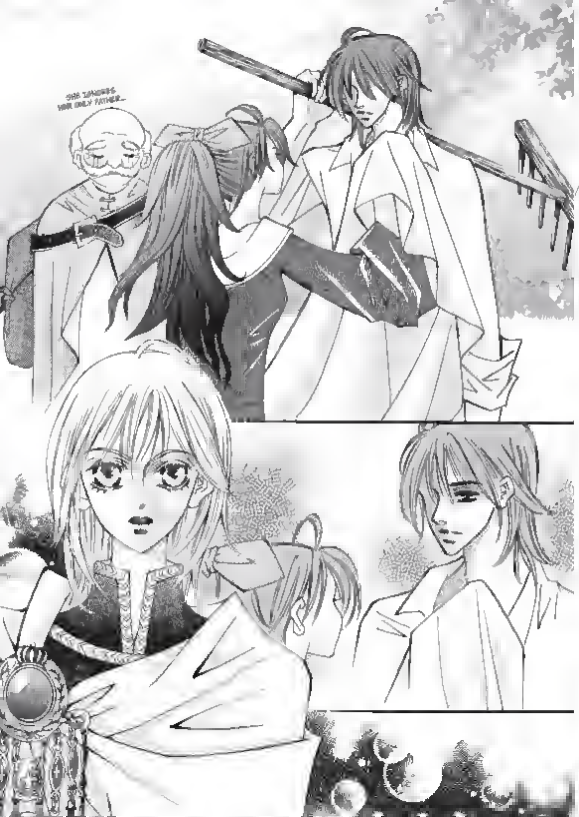
REST WELL. WE'LL LOOK AFTER THE HORSES.

YOU'RE NOT FROM THESE PARTS. YOUR ODD CLOTHES AND ACCENT...
YES.. I'M A TRAVELER.
AH, WHAT A SOFT-LOOKING GENTLEMAN...
DO YOU LOOK AFTER THIS INN BY YOURSELF? ISN'T IT DANGEROUS?
NO. MY FATHER AND MY HUSBAND LIVE AT THE RANCH. ONLY TRAVELERS INTERESTED IN BUYING HORSES STOP AND LODGE HERE.
YOU SEEM SO YOUNG, BUT YOU ALREADY HAVE A HUSBAND?
YES.
ACTUALLY, HE'S ALSO A FOREIGNER. HE USED TO TAKE CARE OF THE ROYAL HORSES IN THE NEIGHBORING KINGDOM. YOU'LL FIND OUR HORSES TO BE JUST AS TRUSTWORTHY



AH, HERE THEY COME.
MARTIN! FATHER! WE HAVE GUESTS.

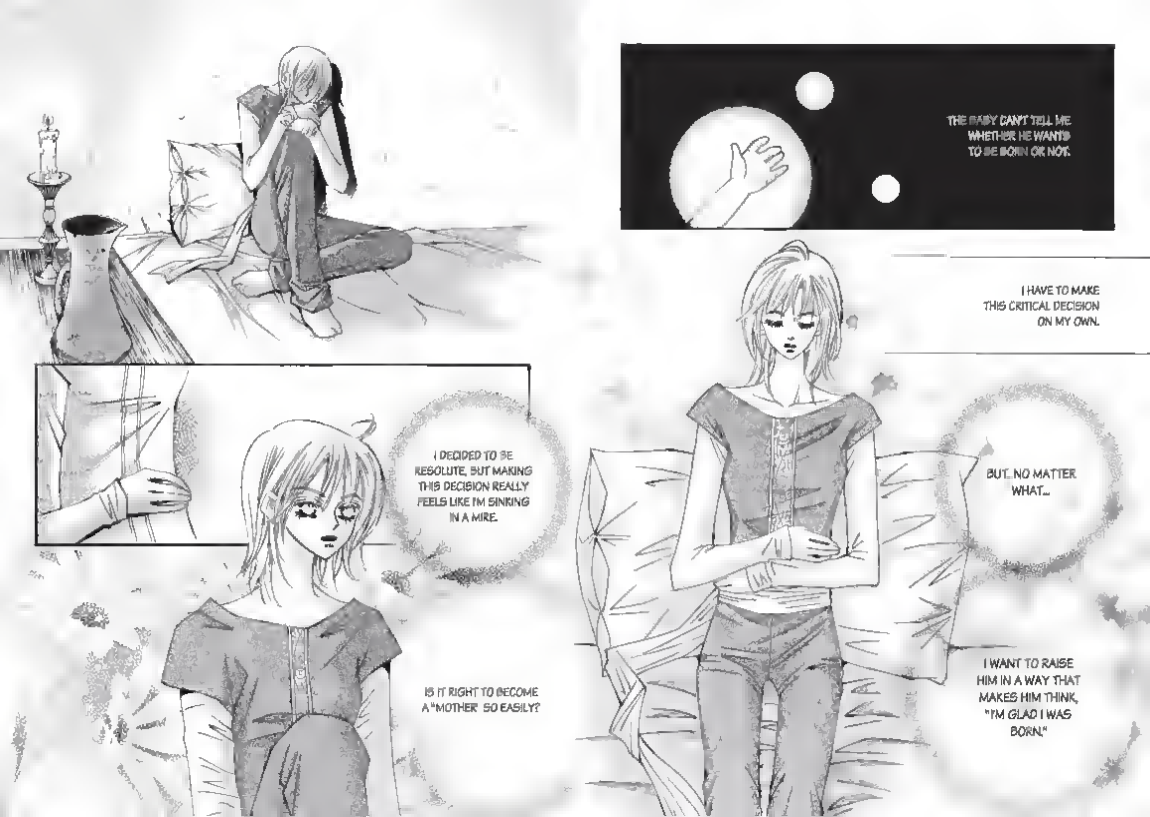
I'LL PREPARE DINNER AND BRING IT UP.


SHE SAVORED HER ONLY FATHER...

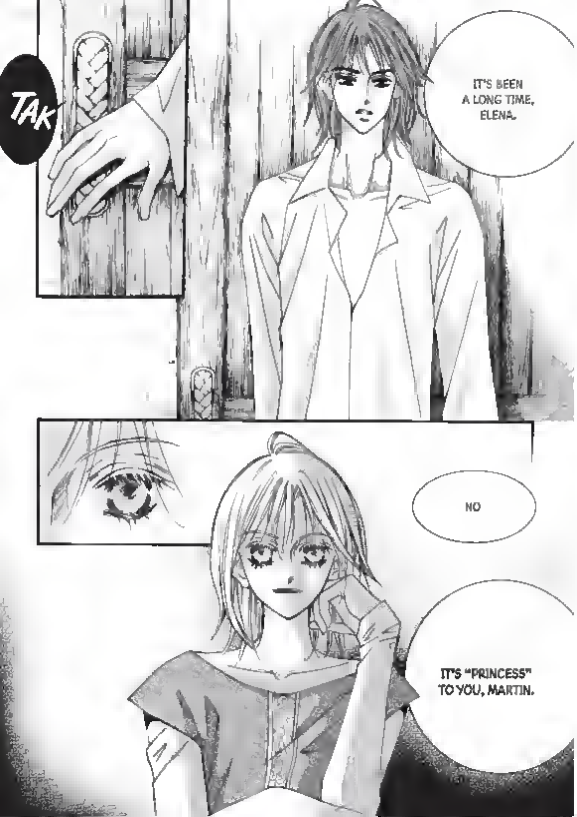
I SEE.
THIS IS WHERE
YOU BELONGED
ALL ALONG
YOU LOOK GOOD

...I'M GLAD
AH-

HE SAID HE'S TRAVELING HE LOOKS LIKE A NOBLEMAN
HE'S A REALLY SWEET-LOOKING YOUNG MAN.
BUT HE'S A MAN, AFTER ALL, SO I INFORMED HIM THAT I WAS MARRIED SO THAT HE WOULDN'T GET ANY FUNNY IDEAS.
MARRIED TO YOU~
WE'LL BE SOON AWAY!
AGAIN WITH THE MARRIAGE TALK?
I TOLD YOU THAT I'M ALREADY MARRIED.
YOU'RE LYING AGAIN! WHO DO YOU THINK YOU'RE TRYING TO FOOL?!
MARTIN! LOOK AFTER THE GUESTS' HORSES WHILE THEY PICK OUT SOME NEW ONES. COURTNEY, GET DINNER READY.
YES.


THE BABY CAN'T TELL ME WHETHER HE WANTS TO BE BORN OR NOT.
I HAVE TO MAKE THIS CRITICAL DECISION ON MY OWN.
I DECIDED TO BE RESOLUTE, BUT MAKING THIS DECISION REALLY FEELS LIKE I'M SINKING IN A MIRE.
BUT, NO MATTER WHAT...
IS IT RIGHT TO BECOME A "MOTHER" SO EASILY?
I WANT TO RAISE HIM IN A WAY THAT MAKES HIM THINK, "I'M GLAD I WAS BORN."

THANK YOU FOR BRINGING ME INTO THIS WORLD.
EVEN THOUGH LIFE IS TOUGH NOW AND MAY GET TOUGHER IN THE FUTURE...
STILL...
LIKE I DO...
MOTHER.
?
THE DOOR SHOULD BE LOCKED IS IT MY GUARD?
CLICK
MARTIN?!!


TAK
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME, ELENA.
NO
IT'S "PRINCESS" TO YOU, MARTIN.

.....
USELESS GUARDS.
ARE YOU STILL ANGRY WITH ME?

YOU LOOK GOOD
WELL, HOW ABOUT ME?
.....
THIS WAS YOUR DECISION.

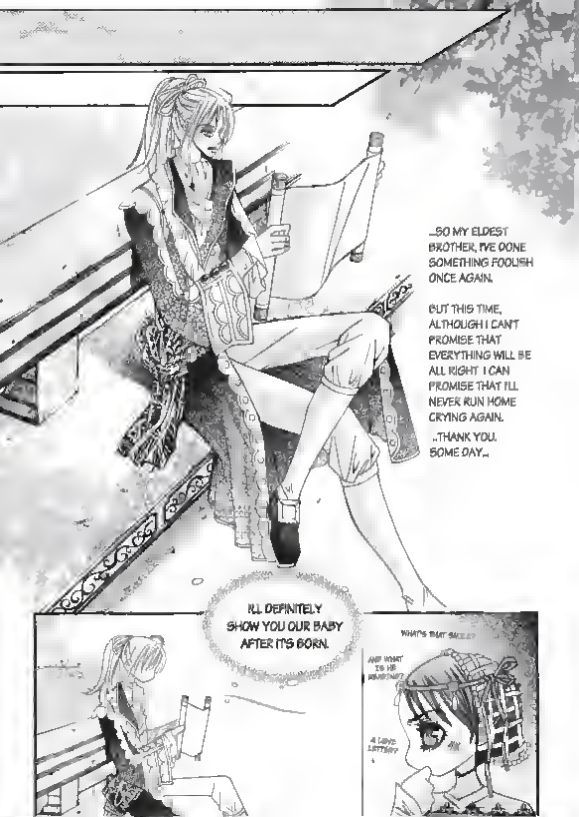
I...
IT'S ALL RIGHT. SOON, I'LL ALSO GET BETTER.
YOU WERE ALWAYS LIKE THIS.

YOU WERE ALWAYS THE ONE TO DECIDE FOR BOTH OF US,
AND MADE ME A PASSIVE PARTNER.
ABOUT LOVE...
YOU'RE VERY SKILLFUL.
IT'S A MORE MODERN
OUR RUNNING AWAY...
COME ON, HURRY. WE'RE LEAVING TOGETHER.
I RENTED A FARM. I'LL HELP TOO.
AND EVEN OUR FUTURE LIVELIHOOD
MORE AND MORE, I BECAME AFRAID OF LOSING YOU
IN ORDER TO FEEL RELIEF, I'D WAKE UP SEVERAL TIMES IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT, JUST TO MAKE SURE YOU WERE STILL LYING NEXT TO ME
I KNEW YOU WERE A STRONG PERSON, EVEN WITHOUT YOUR ROYAL STATUS.
AND I KNEW THAT I WASN'T STRONG. SO, RATHER THAN WAIT IN FEAR FOR YOU TO LEAVE AND FORGET ME...

I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE BETTER TO BE HATED BY YOU ALL MY LIFE.
AND TO WATCH YOU FROM AFAR.
ARE YOU LEAVING FOR A DIFFERENT PLACE AGAIN?
THEN, PLEASE LEAVE. BUT NO MATTER WHERE OR HOW FAR IT MAY BE, I'LL SURELY FOLLOW YOU AGAIN.
SO...
YOU MUST CONTINUE TO HATE ME.

SO...
PLEASE..
RAP
JUST DON'T SAY THAT YOU'LL FORGET ME AND BE ALRIGHT.
MY PRINCESS...

AHHH... TRULY...
YOU'RE A FOOLISH, WEAK, AND PATHETIC MAN.
YOU RE A FOOL AS EVER BEFORE.


...SO MY ELDEST BROTHER, I'VE DONE SOMETHING FOOLISH ONCE AGAIN.
BUT THIS TIME, ALTHOUGH I CAN'T PROMISE THAT EVERYTHING WILL BE ALL RIGHT I CAN PROMISE THAT I'LL NEVER RUN HOME CRYING AGAIN.
...THANK YOU. SOME DAY...
I'LL DEFINITELY SHOW YOU OUR BABY AFTER IT'S BORN.
WHAT'S THAT SMELL?
AND WHAT IS HE MUMBLING?
A LOVE LETTER?

I RECEIVED YOUR MESSAGE AND HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU. OUR VILLAGE IS HUMBLE, BUT PLEASE COME IN.

I CAN'T BELIEVE THERE'S A VILLAGE SO DEEP IN THE FOREST
IT WOULDVE BEEN IMPOSSIBLE TO FIND WITHOUT A GUIDE.

EVERYONE'S AS BEAUTIFUL AS I IMAGINED

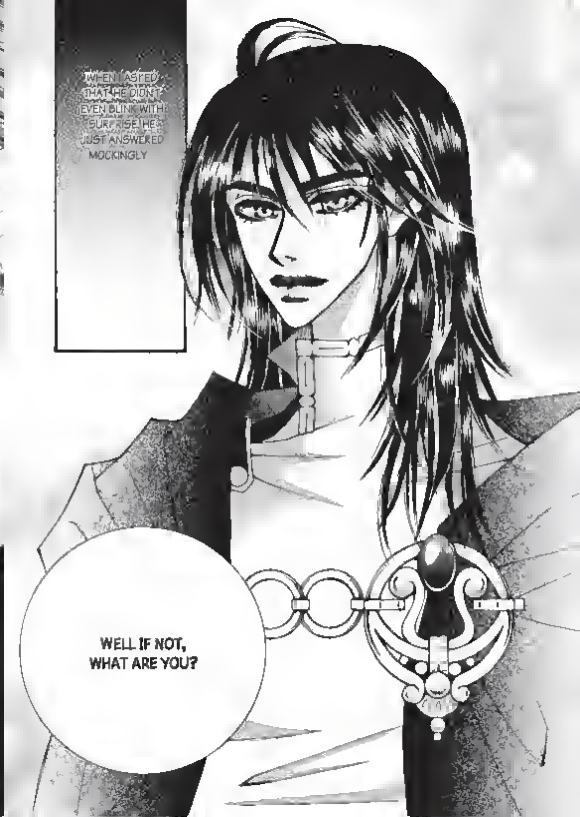
BUT WHAT SHOULD I SAY...
THERE'S SOMETHING STRANGE ABOUT THEM.

AND SO IS THE TRIBE LEADER.
THE APOTHECARY IS ALSO LIKE THAT.
EVERYONE, FROM CHILDREN TO ADULTS, SEEM TO POSSESS THE EXACT SAME SUBTLE AIR ABOUT THEM.
THEY'RE LIKE SHADOWS HOLDING THEIR BREATH AND HIDING IN THE SHADES

WHY?

PLEASE TAKE OFF YOUR TRAVEL ATTIRE HERE. I'LL LEAD YOU TO THE TRIBE LEADER'S HOME SHORTLY.

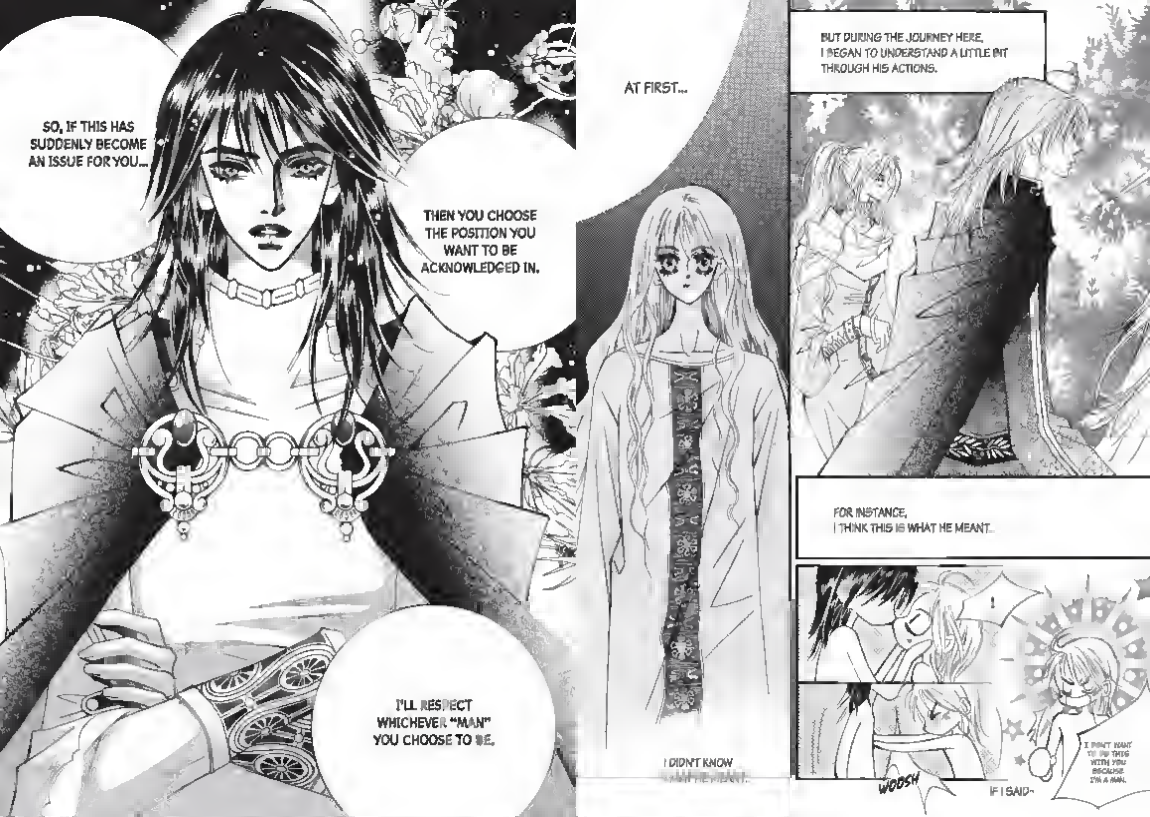
TAK!
"AM I A WOMAN TO YOU?"


WHEN I ASKED THAT, HE DIDN'T EVEN BLINK WITH SURPRISE. HE JUST ANSWERED MOCKINGLY
WELL IF NOT, WHAT ARE YOU?

IF YOU WANT TO BE A LAME YOUNGER BROTHER... I HAVE PLENTY OF THEM BESIDES YOU.
OR DO YOU BY ANY CHANCE...
WANT THE POSITION OF BEING MY YOUNGER SISTER?
A YOUNGER SISTER'S STILL A WOMAN! I'M A MAN, I TELL YOU!
SHAF

?
THIS IS FOR A WOMAN.
THIS IS FOR A YOUNGER SISTER.
AND THIS...
THUNK
...IS FOR A YOUNGER BROTHER.

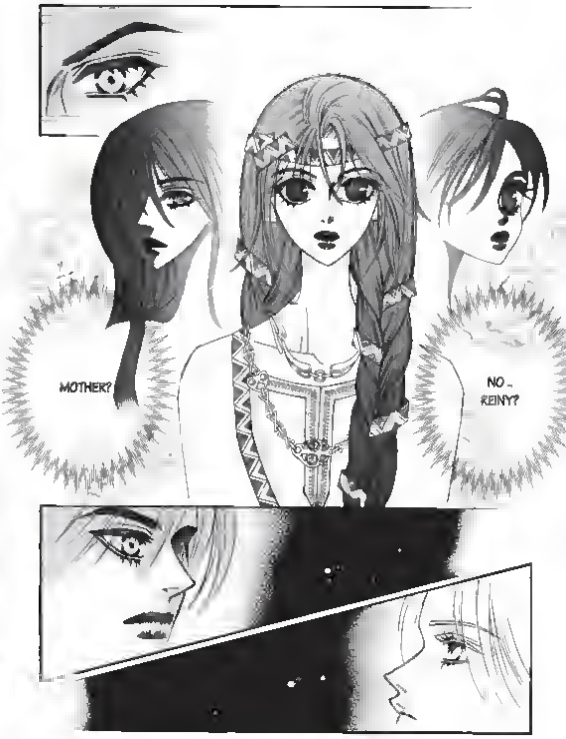
YOU'RE A COMBINATION OF ALL OF THEM.
THE REASON I LEAVE OUT "MAN" IS BECAUSE YOU'RE A MAN FIRST AND FOREMOST...
IT'S NOT THAT I'M PRETENDING AT THIS POINT I DIDN'T KNOW THAT FACT ALL ALONG.

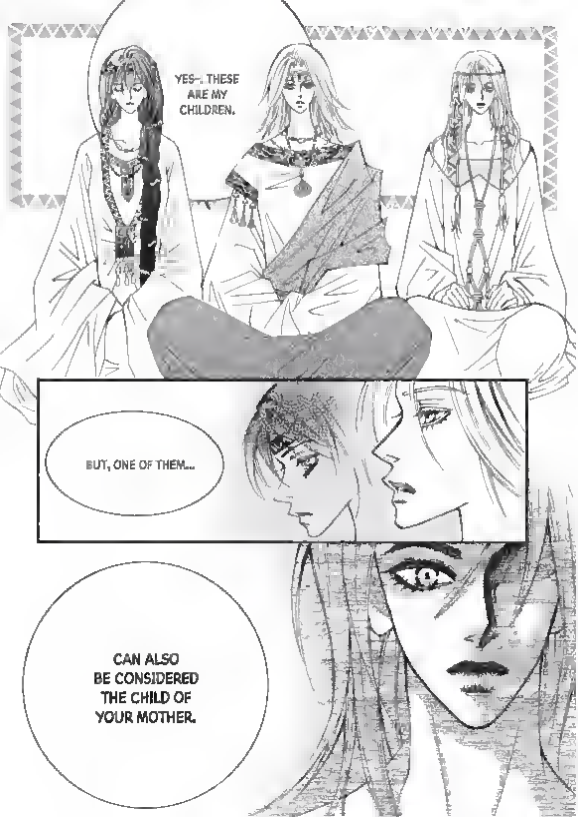

SO, IF THIS HAS SUDDENLY BECOME AN ISSUE FOR YOU...
THEN YOU CHOOSE THE POSITION YOU WANT TO BE ACKNOWLEDGED IN.
I'LL RESPECT WHICHEVER "MAN" YOU CHOOSE TO BE.
AT FIRST...
I DIDN'T KNOW
BUT DURING THE JOURNEY HERE, I BEGAN TO UNDERSTAND A LITTLE BIT THROUGH HIS ACTIONS.
FOR INSTANCE, I THINK THIS IS WHAT HE MEANT.
!
WOOSH
I DON'T WANT TO BE THIS WITH YOU BECAUSE I'M A MAN.
IF I SAID-

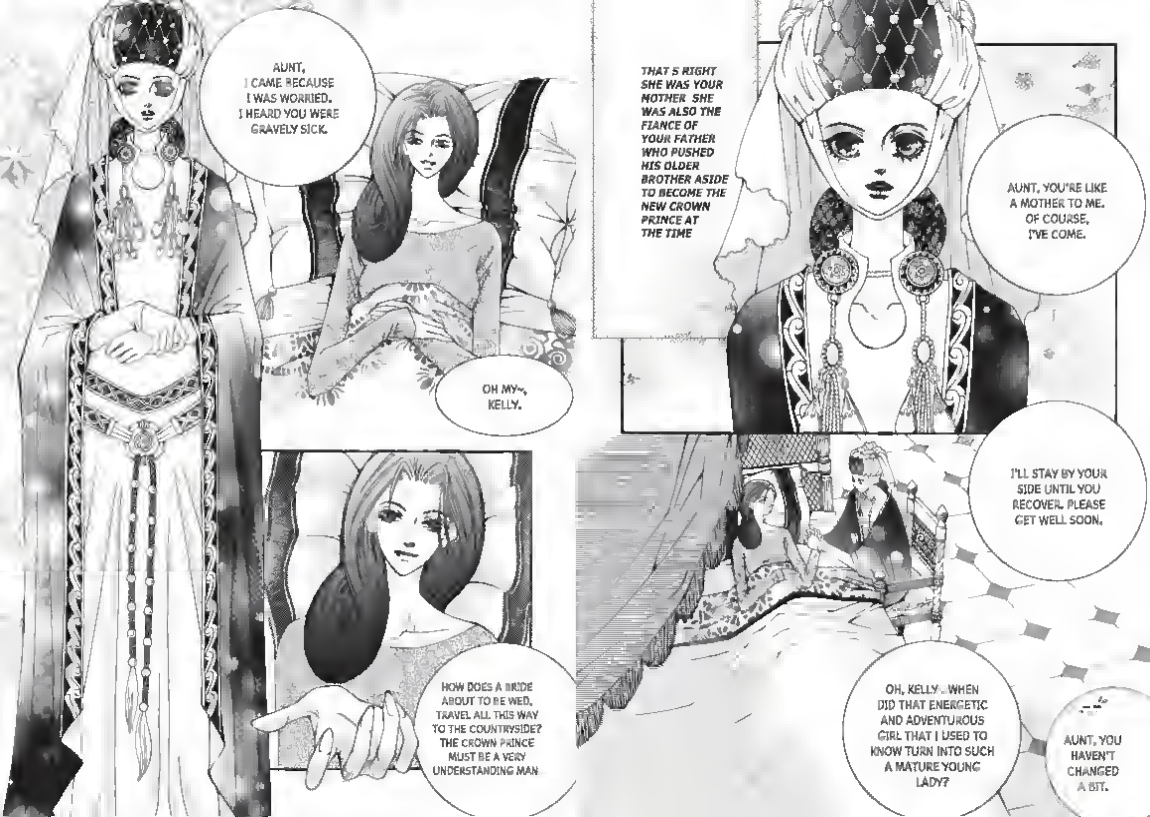
SHRUG
OKAY.
AND THAT'S WHAT HE WOULD DO.
.....
I'M GOING TO BED FIRST.
IT'S PROBABLY BETTER FOR ME TO BURY MYSELF IN THIS VILLAGE, TOO
SINCE THEN...
MY HEAD KEEPS ACHING.

WHAT IS IT THAT YOU'D LIKE TO HEAR FROM ME?

TELL ME ABOUT MY MOTHER'S RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR TRIBE.
AND ALSO ABOUT THE TRIBE ITSELF
.....
SHAHI. SHAYLIN. PLEASE ENTER.


MOTHER?
NO... REINY?


YES~. THESE ARE MY CHILDREN.
BUT, ONE OF THEM...
CAN ALSO BE CONSIDERED THE CHILD OF YOUR MOTHER.


AUNT, I CAME BECAUSE I WAS WORRIED. I HEARD YOU WERE GRAVELY SICK.
OH MY~, KELLY.
HOW DOES A BRIDE ABOUT TO BE WED, TRAVEL ALL THIS WAY TO THE COUNTRYSIDE? THE CROWN PRINCE MUST BE A VERY UNDERSTANDING MAN
THAT'S RIGHT SHE WAS YOUR MOTHER SHE WAS ALSO THE FIANCE OF YOUR FATHER WHO PUSHED HIS OLDER BROTHER ASIDE TO BECOME THE NEW CROWN PRINCE AT THE TIME
AUNT, YOU'RE LIKE A MOTHER TO ME. OF COURSE, I'VE COME.
I'LL STAY BY YOUR SIDE UNTIL YOU RECOVER. PLEASE GET WELL SOON.
OH, KELLY.. WHEN DID THAT ENERGETIC AND ADVENTUROUS GIRL THAT I USED TO KNOW TURN INTO SUCH A MATURE YOUNG LADY?
AUNT, YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED A BIT.

IT'S GOOD THAT YOU CAME, MY CHILD-. THIS TRIP MAY BE THE ONLY TIME OF FREEDOM YOU HAVE LEFT.
REST WELL BEFORE YOU RETURN.
I'LL BE ABLE TO MAKE SOME DEER STEW FOR MY AUNT
SHHF
AH, THERE...

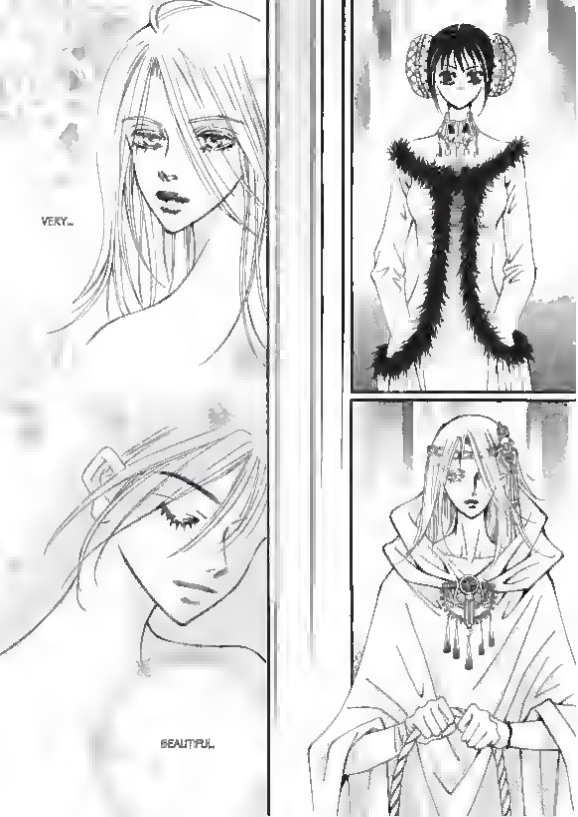
PHOONT

DARN IT! WHAT WERE YOU DOING THERE?! I ALMOST KILLED YOU!
.....

WHEN I COMPARE A PERSON WHO WAS ALMOST KILLED TO A PERSON WHO ALMOST DID THE KILLING, I THINK THERE'S MORE DAMAGE ON MY END.
... ..
HERE-, I LIVED THANKS TO YOUR TERRIBLE ARCHERY SKILLS. YOU HAVE MY GRATITUDE.

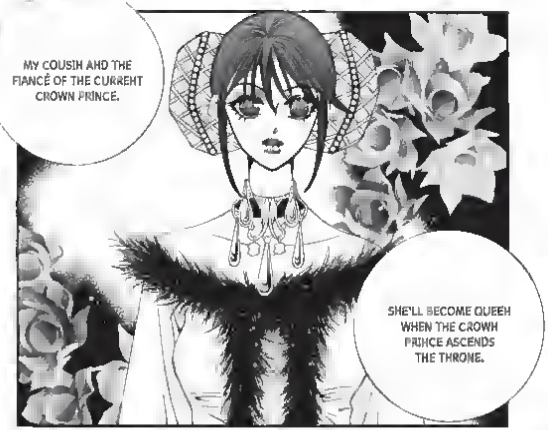
THIS JERK HAS A REALLY SPITEFUL WAY OF TALKING
I'VE LOST ALL DESIRE TO APOLOGIZE.
OH, REALLY?
IF YOU'RE ALIVE BECAUSE OF ME, THEN...
THAT MEANS YOUR LIFE IS INDEBTED TO ME. WHAT DO I GET IN RETURN?

HEE~! HE'S SCARED DEFINITELY SCARED
Fumata Fumata
HE WAS A FUN PERSON, AND...

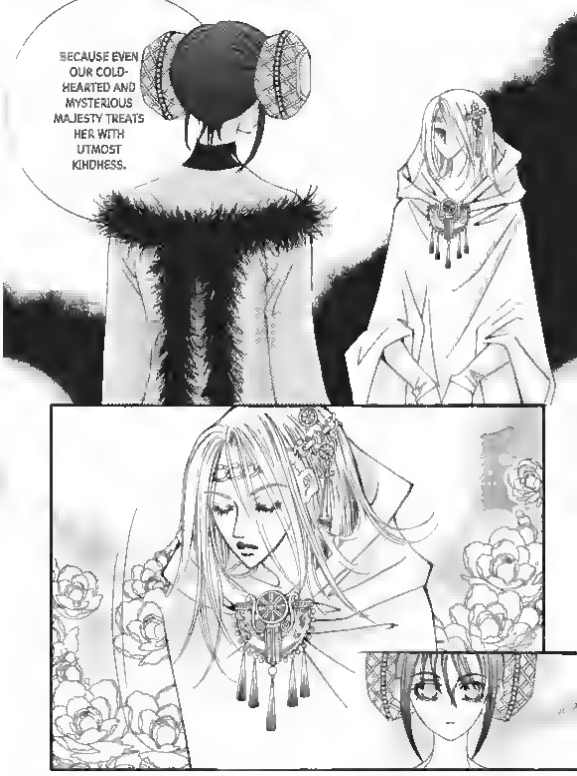

VERY...
BEAUTIFUL.

AH, KELLY.
COUSIN...

SAY YOUR GREETINGS. I PRESENT YOU THE LEADER OF THE HEROT TRIBE AND HIS SON. THEY'RE CARING FOR OUR MOTHER DURING HER ILLNESS.
AND SHE IS. .

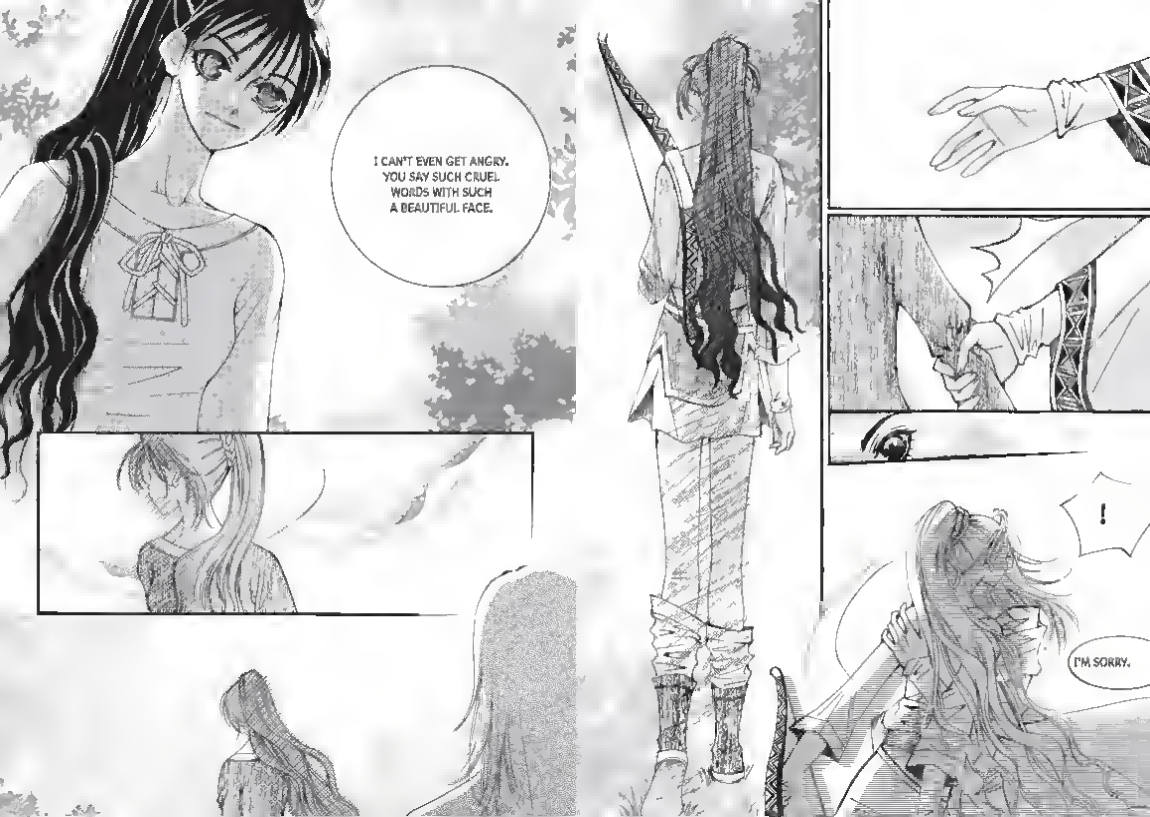

MY COUSIN AND THE FIANCÉ OF THE CURRENT CROWN PRINCE.
SHE'LL BECOME QUEEN WHEN THE CROWN PRINCE ASCENDS THE THRONE.

AS FOR YOUR TRIBE'S RESIDENCY, IF YOU REQUEST PERMISSION WITH HER, THE PROCESS WILL GO EASIER THAN WITH A MERE LORD LIKE MYSELF.


BECAUSE EVEN OUR COLD-HEARTED AND MYSTERIOUS MAJESTY TREATS HER WITH UTMOST KINDNESS.

SCRUNCH
IF I USED YOU AS A TRAP INSTEAD OF A BOW AND ARROW, I WOULD HAVE A MORE SUCCESSFUL HUNT.
STRANGE... AND HURTING EYES.
NO.
EYES THAT HURT ME.

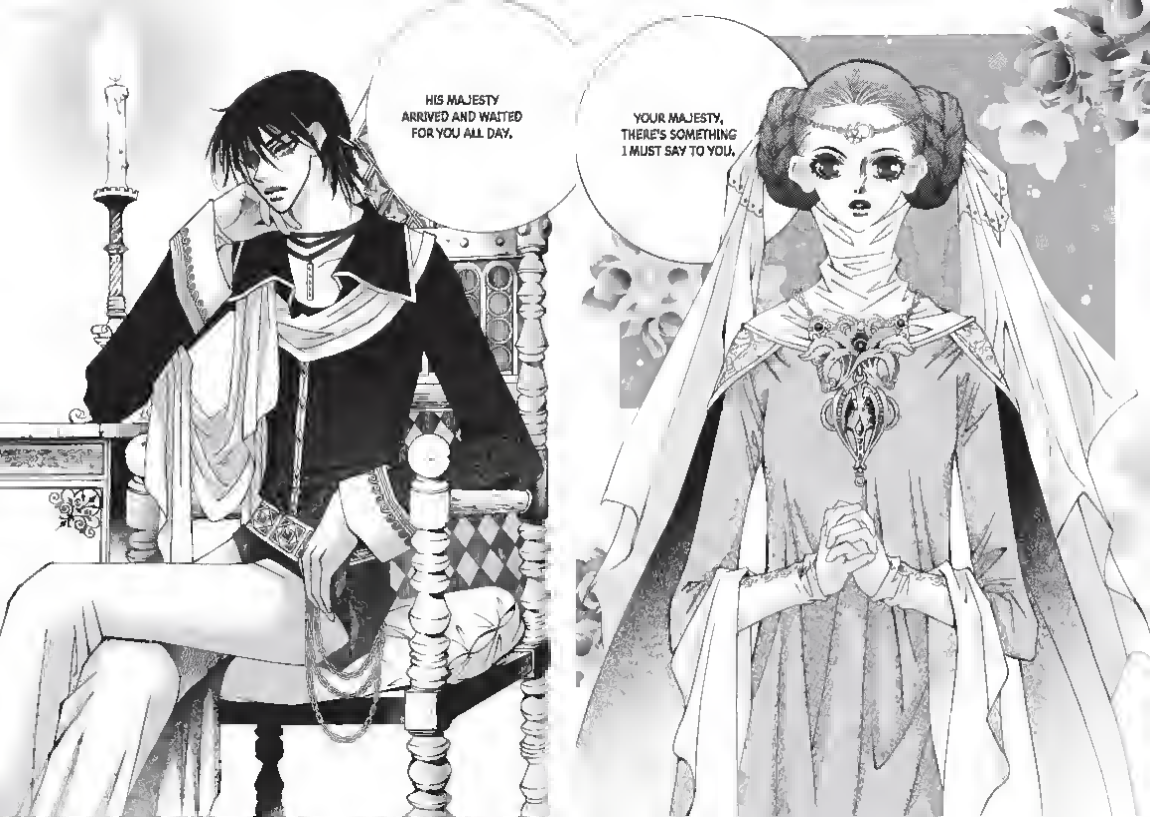
BUT, WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
IT LOOKS LIKE SOMETHING ELSE HAS ALSO GOTTEN CAUGHT IN THAT TRAP
.....
WHY DO YOU REMAIN STILL?
I THOUGHT MAYBE IF I PLAYED ALONG WITH THE FUTURE QUEEN'S WISH FOR LOVE, MY TRIBE'S PROBLEM COULD EASILY BE RECTIFIED—

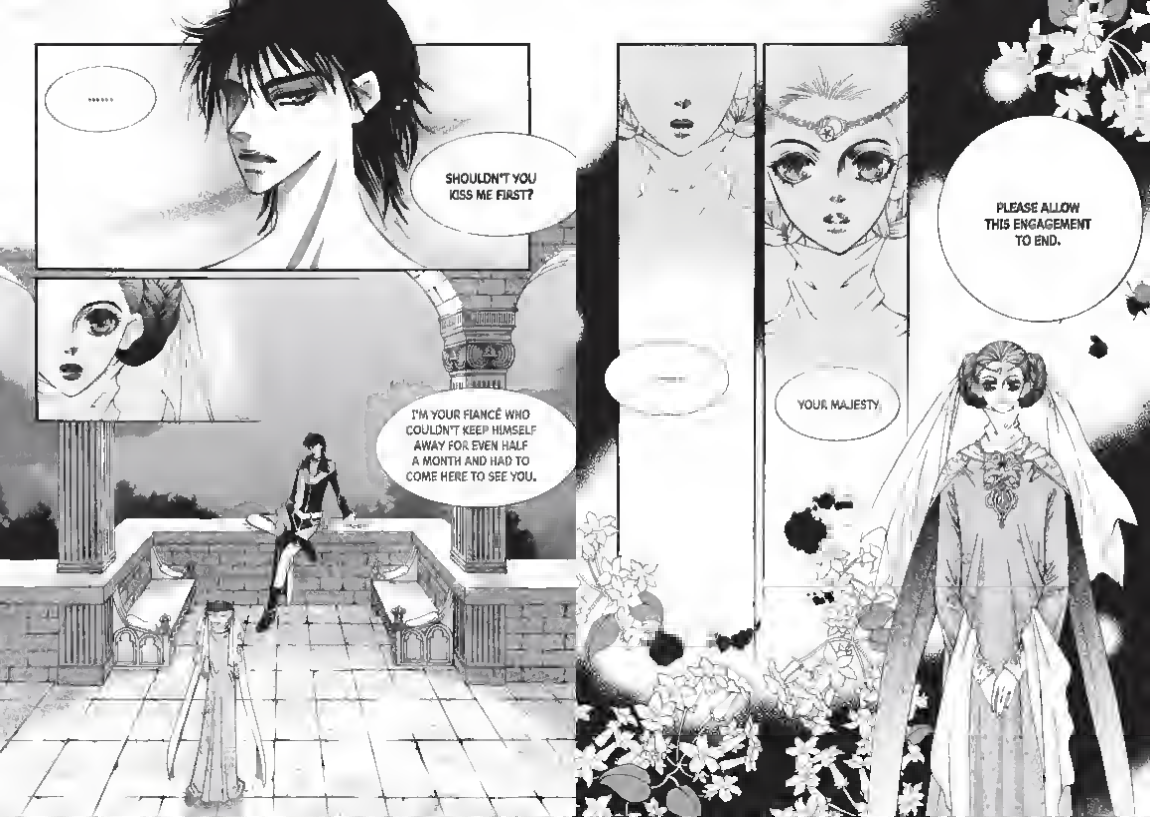

I CAN'T EVEN GET ANGRY.
YOU SAY SUCH CRUEL
WORDS WITH SUCH
A BEAUTIFUL FACE.
!
I'M SORRY.

...WHY?
FOR MAKING YOU CRY...

.....

OH, KELLY. WHY ARE YOU SO LATE?
WHAT'S WRONG, COUSIN?


HIS MAJESTY ARRIVED AND WAITED FOR YOU ALL DAY.
YOUR MAJESTY, THERE'S SOMETHING I MUST SAY TO YOU.


.....
SHOULDN'T YOU KISS ME FIRST?
I'M YOUR FIANCÉ WHO COULDN'T KEEP HIMSELF AWAY FOR EVEN HALF A MONTH AND HAD TO COME HERE TO SEE YOU.
YOUR MAJESTY,
PLEASE ALLOW THIS ENGAGEMENT TO END.

I'VE FALLEN IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE ELSE.

YOU'RE BRAVE.
I HOLD THAT COURAGE IN HIGH REGARD, AND SO I WON'T ASK ANY QUESTIONS, EVEN AFTER WE'RE MARRIED.
HOWEVER, IF YOU CONTINUE IN YOUR BRAVERY...

I'LL SEEK OUT YOUR LOVER AND TEAR HIM TO PIECES BEFORE YOUR VERY EYES.
THEN, WE'LL HOLD THE WEDDING CEREMONY OVER POOLS OF HIS BLOOD.
IS THIS WHAT YOU CALL LOVE?
SO, WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO TEACH ME?
IF YOU WANT TO TEACH ME THAT THE PERSON BEING DESERTED MUST WAVE FAREWELL TO HIS LOVER AS SHE LEAVES FOR ANOTHER MAN, I M AFRAID I MUST DECLINE.
UNFORTUNATELY, YOUR PAIN DOESN'T BECOME MINE.

WHICH MEANS...
EVEN IF YOU WITHER AWAY AND DIE, YOU'LL REMAIN AT MY SIDE.

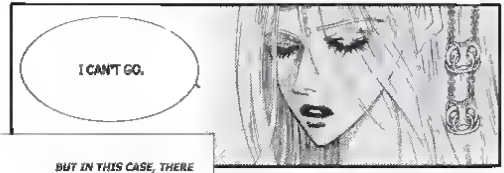
I WAS ALWAYS...
UNCOMFORTABLE AROUND HIM, BUT NOT AFRAID OF HIM.
THAT'S WHY I COULD BE BRAVE IN FRONT OF HIM. AND WHEN I WAS CHOSEN TO BE THE CROWN PRINCESS IT WAS UNEXPECTED. BUT I WASN'T SHOCKED

I BELIEVED THAT RESPECT COULD TURN INTO LOVE.

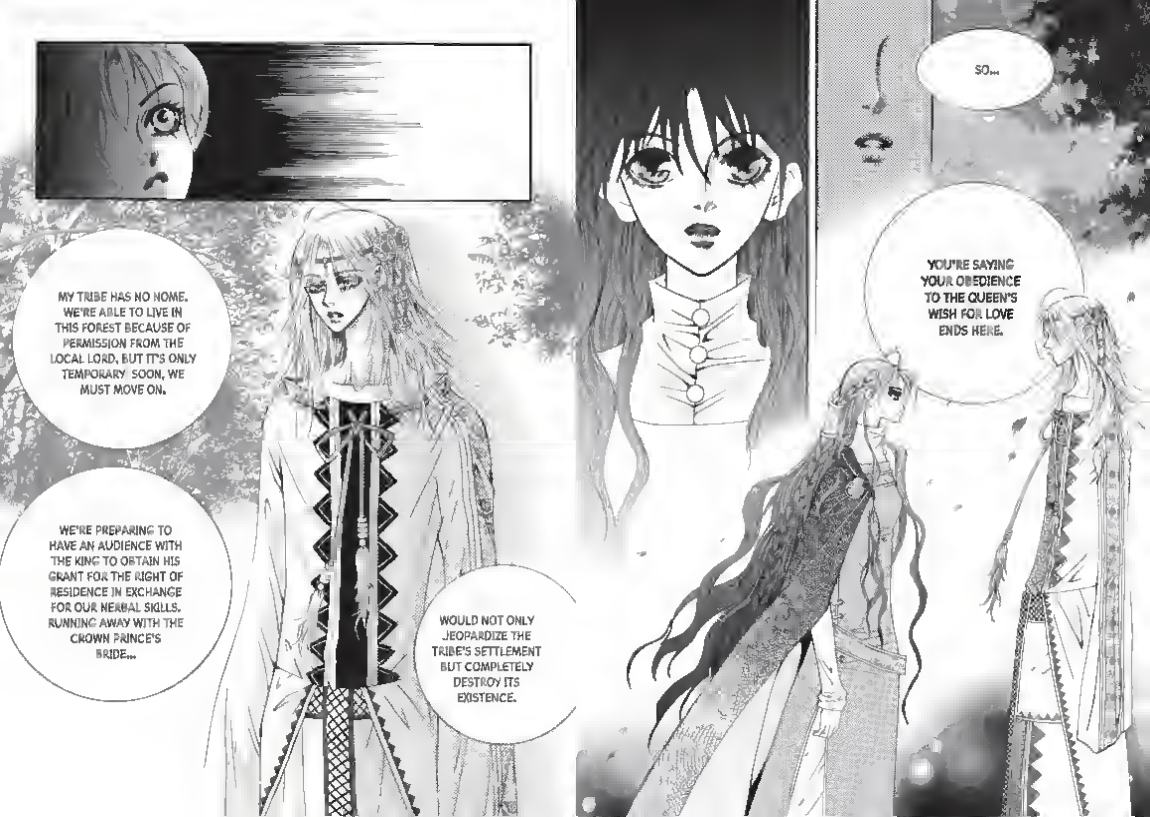
THAT WAS... BEFORE I MET THOSE BEAUTIFUL AND HURTING EYES.
I'LL GIVE YOU SOME TIME TO SETTLE ALL MATTERS.
I EXPECT YOU TO SETTLE EVERYTHING HERE WITHIN SEVEN DAYS AND THEN MEET ME AT THE PALACE.
AS SUCH THE PRINCE APPEARED TO FORGIVE HER VERY EASILY
BUT IT WAS REALLY A CALCULATED PLAN TO CATCH HER LOVER.
CORNERED LOVERS TEND TO BE CARELESS...
KELLY...

ONCE A WOMAN MAKES UP HER MIND, HER DECISIONS ARE STRONG AND SWIFT

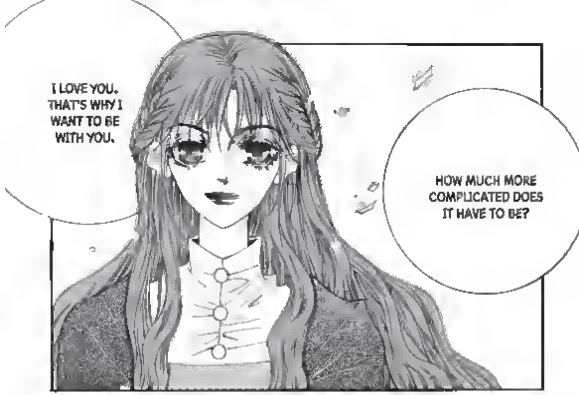
ON THE CONTRARY, MEN TEND TO BE INDECISIVE IN MORE CASES

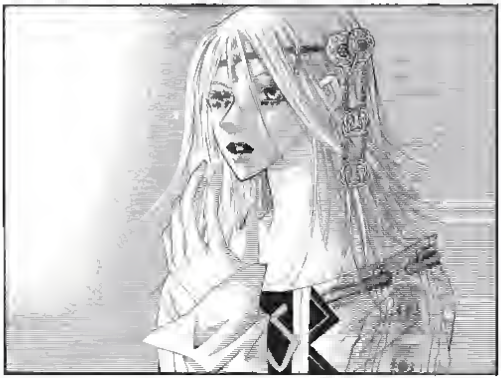


BUT IN THIS CASE, THERE WERE OTHER REASONS


MY TRIBE HAS NO HOME. WE'RE ABLE TO LIVE IN THIS FOREST BECAUSE OF PERMISSION FROM THE LOCAL LORD. BUT IT'S ONLY TEMPORARY. SOON, WE MUST MOVE ON.
WE'RE PREPARING TO HAVE AN AUDIENCE WITH THE KING TO OBTAIN HIS GRANT FOR THE RIGHT OF RESIDENCE IN EXCHANGE FOR OUR HERBAL SKILLS. RUNNING AWAY WITH THE CROWN PRINCE'S BRIDE...
WOULD NOT ONLY JEOPARDIZE THE TRIBE'S SETTLEMENT BUT COMPLETELY DESTROY ITS EXISTENCE.
SO...
YOU'RE SAYING YOUR OBEDIENCE TO THE QUEEN'S WISH FOR LOVE ENDS HERE.

BUT, I WAS TOO THICKHEADED TO UNDERSTAND AND CONTINUED TO PRESS Y...
KELLY!
PLEASE--
IT ISN'T SUCH A SIMPLE PROBLEM.

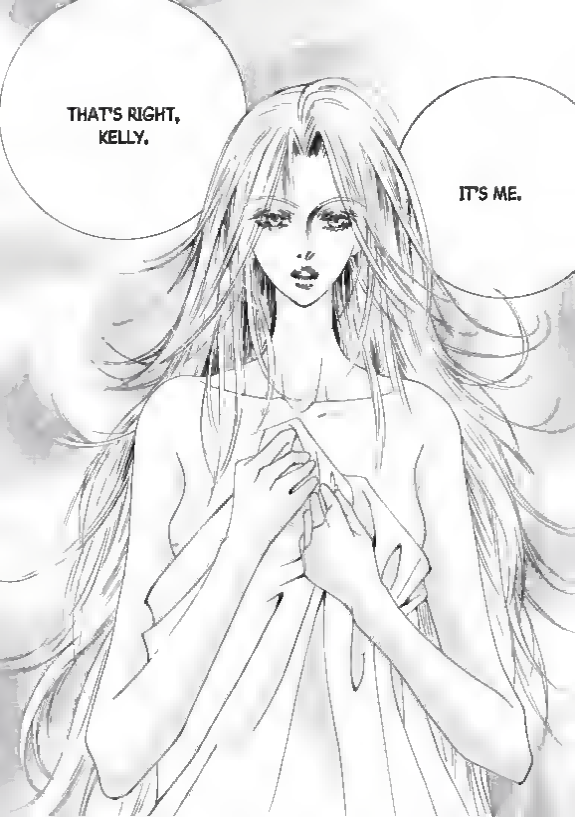

I LOVE YOU. THAT'S WHY I WANT TO BE WITH YOU.
HOW MUCH MORE COMPLICATED DOES IT HAVE TO BE?



...YOU'RE RIGHT
ALL MY REASONS MAY BE NOTHING MORE THAN EXCUSES.
I LOVE YOU.
I FELL IN LOVE WITH YOU.
BUT--
THAT'S ALL. IT WON'T LEAD TO ANYTHING ELSE.
I WOULD LIKE TO CARESS YOU TONIGHT. WILL YOU GIVE ME PERMISSION?

...LY.
KELLY.

WHO?
...A WOMAN?
WHY IS THERE A WOMAN NEXT TO...?
?!
?
THAT FACE IS...?


THAT'S RIGHT, KELLY.
IT'S ME.